

**Item 16. Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) (WO/GA/50/5)**

Mr. Chair,

1. The CEBS group takes note of the report of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications and would like to thank the chair of this committee Mr. Adil El Maliki for ably guiding the work of SCT. Our group recognizes the importance of the work carried out by the committee and sees value in the discussions on various topics carried out in the last two sessions. Our thanks also go to the DDG Binying Wang, to the Senior Director for the presentation of the report as well as to the Secretariat for efforts deployed in preparing SCT sessions.
2. We appreciate the discussions held in previous SCT sessions concerning the protection of country names against registration and use as trademarks, valuable exchanges among the delegations concerning different practices, efforts to clarify practical issues, as well as new compromise proposal concerning implementation issues. We look forward to further discussing these issues in the committee. We appreciate the valuable information regarding trademark-related aspects of the domain name system as well as trademarks and international non-proprietary names for pharmaceutical substances that have been shared in the SCT.
3. Talking about the industrial designs, we would hereby like to stress that expected compromise solution in the area of Design Law Treaty has not been found yet and is still underway. Therefore, we would like to reiterate that the CEBS group regrets the inability to reach an agreement on convening the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of the Design Law Treaty, the text of which has already been finalized few years ago. We would like to restate that the work should not be reverted back to the SCT and the current General Assembly should decide on convening a diplomatic conference based on the worked-out text.
4. In relation to geographical indications, we would also like to restate that the work of the SCT should not interpret or review the provisions of the Lisbon Agreement or Geneva Act. We welcome the agreement reached on future work programme on Geographical Indications, and we also look forward to discussing the results of the Questionnaire on GIs, that was successfully drawn up and presented to delegations, as we are in favor of exchanging experiences and practices of different geographical indication protection systems, as well as developments in respect of protection of geographical indications on the Internet, and geographical indications and country names in the DNS.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.